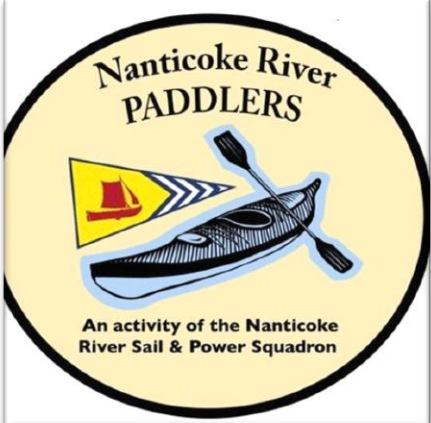


Reclaim Our River (ROR), Nanticoke Series  
Watershed Events, Workshops and Floating Fun!



Your guide for reclaiming and enjoying your waterways. *Protect where you play!*



- Rowers, Paddlers, Kayakers -Paddling club! March - Oct.**
- Paddling Club to add Kayak Cleanups and Canoe and Scoops to ROR Series
  - The Nanticoke River Sail and Power Squadron's paddling club will be sponsoring various outings on the Nanticoke River, Broad Creek, and local ponds.
  - These adventures will be added to the ROR series as a fun way to connect each other to our waterways and clean as we go. The ROR team will be providing trash bags and other clean up supplies.
  - If interested in joining, please contact Tom McGeen at [tjmpe@comcast.net](mailto:tjmpe@comcast.net) (or by phone 302-629-5612) with your name and email and we'll provide you with directions to the launch area. Be sure to bring a life preserver and whistle or horn as required by Delaware law.



**Build a rain barrel for FREE! Save \$\$ and improve water quality!**



**Free Rain Barrel Building Workshop at Blades Town Hall -March 14**

- Build a free Rain Barrel with a kit provided by DNREC and plastic drum provided by Dogfish Head Brewery and Coca-Cola
- This hands-on workshop is a fun, easy way to learn about how rain barrels can reduce runoff and flooding and save you money! All materials will be provided and participants will go home with their own free rain barrel made during the workshop.
- Also, watch a rain barrel painting demonstration led by Sandi Dew, a Sussex County Master Gardener and member of the Nanticoke River Arts Council.
- Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/free-rain-barrel-building-workshop-tickets-15742795124> or call Phil Miller at 302-672-1149.



- Arbor Day at Blades Park -April 24**
- A day to inspire people to plant, nurture, and celebrate trees
  - Trees make a world of difference! Join the Town of Blades and the Reclaim Our River team for a day of fun activities, exhibits, and oh yeah... tree planting!
  - Trees provide an aesthetic value and increase property values. They also improve water and air quality, reduce energy costs, and provide habitat for wildlife.
  - No need to register—just show up! If you would like to volunteer during this event, please contact Vikki Prettyman [vikkiprettyman@bladesde.com](mailto:vikkiprettyman@bladesde.com)



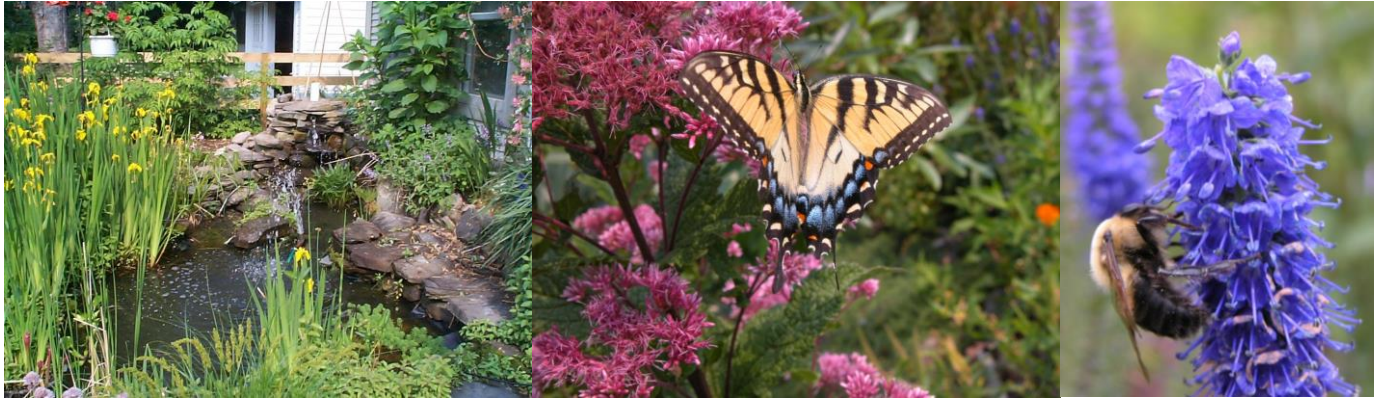
**Create a smartyard with a garden of colorful native plants!**  
**Three workshops in the Nanticoke Watershed**  
**Smartyards = Clean Water**



**Smartyard Workshops**

Saturday, April 25: 9:30 -11:30 AM at Lakeside Greenhouses, Laurel  
Saturday, May 16: 9:30 - 11:30 AM at Jeff's Greenhouses, Bethel  
Saturday, June 13: 9:00 - 11:00 AM at Soroptimist Park, Seaford

- The Delaware Nature Society (DNS), the National Wildlife Federation, NOAA and the Chesapeake Bay Trust are partners who support citizen efforts to green their communities. What we do on land directly affects the quality of water we drink and use for recreation. You can help to ensure clean, safe, drinking water for people and wildlife by creating a smartyard. Abbott's Mill Nature Center invites residents of the Nanticoke River Watershed to participate in a free workshop:
- Learn how to beautify your yard while attracting colorful butterflies and birds and improving local water health. Topics will include: native plants to suit your yard; creating a bird friendly habitat; supporting beneficial pollinators; rain gardens: plants for wet areas; and low maintenance & healthy lawns. Participants will have the option to certify their yard as a "Wildlife Habitat."
- To register for a workshop or for more information, please contact Alice Mohrman, Education Coordinator, Abbott's Mill Nature Center, at (302)422-0847 or email [alice@delawarenaturesociety.org](mailto:alice@delawarenaturesociety.org)
- Even more info: [Click Here](#)



**Nanticoke Marine Park Festival at Blades Marina - May 17**

- The Nanticoke River Marine Park Festival, sponsored by the Nanticoke River Sail and Power Squadron will be held on Sunday, May 17, 2015, from 10:00 to 4:00. It's the final event of the 100th Anniversary Celebration weekend of Blades, Delaware. Our Festival will be held on the banks of the Nanticoke River at the Nanticoke River Marina in Blades.
- If you or your organization is interested in being a vendor at our Festival, please contact Judy Martin at [judym24@hotmail.com](mailto:judym24@hotmail.com) or by phone at (302) 335-1556 or (302) 222-634, for more information.





### Eco Paddle at Phillips Landing -June 27

- Explore the Nanticoke Watershed during this morning guided paddle. Hear about wildlife, water quality, history of the Captain John Smith trail, public access and the National Parks Conservation Association's Freedom to Float campaign.
- After your paddle, join us for a barbeque and see exhibits from the Reclaim Our River partnership.
- To register, please contact Ed Stierli [estierli@npca.org](mailto:estierli@npca.org) or 202-454-3339



### Nanticoke Riverfest in Seaford -July 10 & 11

- July 10: Join us in the 2nd annual boat parade. Bring your power or sail boat, kayak, canoe, or raft and join in the fun!
- July 11: Join the Reclaim Our River partners in the Delaware Watersheds tent and be the first to find out about the health of the Nanticoke River with the release of the Nanticoke Watershed Alliance's Nanticoke River Report Card.
- July 11: Build a free rain barrel!

### Wade In at Trap Pond - July 16

- The Nanticoke Watershed Alliance invites you to join us as we celebrate the Nanticoke River and learn more about its water quality monitoring results and trends. We'll also get our feet wet to evaluate the River's health.
- We'll be releasing the Nanticoke River Report Card, kayaking, and enjoying a day outside!
- For more information, please contact Beth Wasden: [bethwasden@nanticokeriver.org](mailto:bethwasden@nanticokeriver.org) or 443-944-1175



### Rain Barrels and Rain Gardens (\*Homeowner Workshop) in Blades -July 25

- Learn how to install, maintain, and use your 45-gallon , FREE EarthMinded Rain Barrel and how rain gardens can be planted to help slow and filter excessive stormwater before it enters your local waterways.
- For more information, please contact Beth Wasden: [bethwasden@nanticokeriver.org](mailto:bethwasden@nanticokeriver.org) or 443-944-1175

### Recycled Cardboard Boat Regatta at Blades Marina -August 8

- Bang! And the race begins! Grab some cardboard now and start building. On August 8, we'll be at the Recycled Cardboard Boat Regatta at the Blades Marina.
- This is a sight not to be missed. This year, if you're between races or just there to watch, you can enjoy the live band, food, and exhibits from the ROR partners.
- Contact Vikki Prettyman to register or for more information: [vikkiprettyman@bladesde.com](mailto:vikkiprettyman@bladesde.com) 302-629-7366

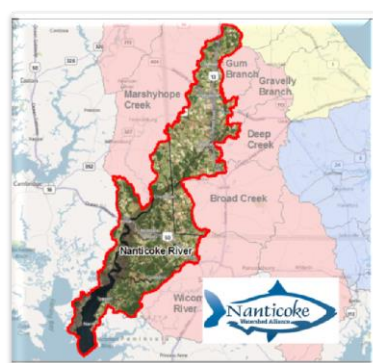


### Soil Testing, Lawn Fertilizers, and the Livable Lawns Program in Blades -August 15 (\*Homeowner Workshop)

- Receive a FREE soil test to determine nutrient levels in your lawn or home vegetable or flower garden and learn how to properly feed your lawn/garden. Pledge to make your landscape a "Livable Lawn" and receive a \$50 gift certificate to purchase native plants.
- For more information, please contact Beth Wasden: [bethwasden@nanticokeriver.org](mailto:bethwasden@nanticokeriver.org) or 443-944-1175

### Chapel Branch Nature Day in Seaford -October 3

- Join us for a fun day at Chapel Branch Nature Area in Seaford where we'll be celebrating Delaware's efforts throughout the ROR Series. We'll be lending a hand by cleaning the area of trash and working on improving the trails. Join a guided nature walk and hear about the watershed's native plants and animals.
- This is a fun-packed day and a great excuse to get outdoors and learn about how we can protect where we play. See you on the trail!
- For more information, contact Phil Miller: [philip.miller@state.de.us](mailto:philip.miller@state.de.us) or 302-672-1149



### Your Water, Your Watershed (\*Homeowner Workshop) in Blades -October 24

- Learn about pollution sources, how your actions can benefit or harm your local waterways, and steps that you can take to conserve water, reduce your expenses, and improve water quality.
- For more information, please contact Beth Wasden: [bethwasden@nanticokeriver.org](mailto:bethwasden@nanticokeriver.org) or 443-944-1175



**\*Homeowner Workshops** engage, educate, and empower local residents in areas that improve water quality. Our actions at home and in our backyards directly impact the health of our local waterways. Most of us want clean, healthy water but don't always understand how our actions can benefit or harm creeks and rivers and the Bay itself. All Homeowner Workshops are free, but registration is limited to 20 participants per workshop. All workshops will be held from 10AM-12PM.

The **Reclaim Our River Program** is designed to bring more water quality oriented events, workshops and recreational opportunities to the Nanticoke Watershed. This program provides important information on techniques of reducing nutrient and sediment pollution and other ways to improve water quality. The series also promotes public access to waterways and provides recreational opportunities as a way to connect us to our waterways and inspire us all to make improvements.

**This series would not be possible if it wasn't for our partners. In many cases, multiple organizations formed the events together.**



The News Journal 08/10/2014

Copy Reduced to %d%% from original to fit letter page

Page : A05

## If the boat floats, row it – but make it quick

By Molly Murray  
The News Journal

Steven Meade got the memo from his boss by email. It sounded pretty interesting – build a boat from cardboard, row it a short distance in the Blades Marina and bring bragging rights, honor and a trophy back to I.G. Burton, a Scaford car dealership.

But things didn't work out exactly as planned for Meade, who ended up being a construction team of one after others bailed out. And to say he got a late start was no exaggeration.

"9:45-10 p.m. Friday night," he said. "I was going to make it look like a Corvette. It failed."

Meade and I.G. Burton were destined for a Saturday regatta featured as part of the "Reclaim Our River" Nanticoke Series program, which brings monthly events, workshops and activities to the watershed. The idea is to raise awareness about issues facing the river and help area residents connect with the resource.

The issue facing Meade was he had ended up with a solid cardboard boat that resembled a hunter's Jon Boat. Lessons abounded along the wharf, many ramming home the wisdom that, when making cardboard boats, it is best to think again about the solid cardboard.

It may be sturdy when dry. But once wet, what is pretty heavy to begin with becomes as non-buoyant as a Chevy Suburban, which Meade would probably be willing to sell you. The 21-year-old is in sales.

A walk a ways down the marina Saturday brought you to the CV (for cardboard vessel) Deadline, built by Robbie Westhoff and his dad, Jim, a former newspaper reporter who now works for DelDOT.

The Westhoff boat-building venture was also a last-minute affair, commencing late Friday night and ending Saturday afternoon with a heavy helping of duct tape.

"That's part of the adventure – doing it in 12 hours," Jim Westhoff, of Greenwood, said.

And then, there was the Reale family, of Laurel.

Dad Jason is a corporate project engineer and he took his cardboard boat construction seriously – so seriously he crafted some very cool, hollow cardboard 2-by-4s that he used in the framing of the Viking-style vessel.

The boat was not only beautiful – it won the Most Whimsical Award – and fast, but also very seaworthy. He, his wife Wendy, and daughter Monica, 8, even made Viking hats – from cardboard.

"We started about two weeks ago," he said. By Saturday, he said, "I was so tired of working with cardboard."

High school friends Tyler Imprescia and Sean Letavish, both 14 and from the Dover area, used a coffin as the inspiration for their boat design.

They waterproofed the bottom with spray paint once they reached the Blades regatta location.

That was when the "you go first syndrome" infected the team. Imprescia said that Letavish would get in the boat first once it was in the water.

"We'll see if it holds him, and if it holds him then I'll go in," he said.

The event, held for the first time on Saturday, drew nine cardboard boats, some made by families like the Reales, others by community organizations and still others by local businesses.

The Aaron's Ace Hardware boat, for instance, had the fastest course time. But it was built for speed and not longevity so in the three-way paddle off for Pride of the



The crew from Trapp Pond State Park bursts into an early lead with the 'Molly Brown' just beginning to move during the Cardboard Boat regatta held Saturday at Nanticoke River Public Marine Park in Blades. The colorful Trapp Pond boat won an award as best decorated.



Six-year-old Delaney Westhoff tries to alert her brother Robbie to trouble a little more than halfway through the course. He paid more attention later when they both abandoned ship.



Jason Reale, of Laurel, and his daughter Monica, 8, jump into the lead at the start of a race against 'Deadline,' powered by Robbie Westhoff and his sister, Delaney, 6, of Scaford.

Fleet Award, the white vessel took on water, buckled in the center and sank not too far from the starting line.

The event was put on by the Delaware Nature Society's Abbott's Mill Nature Center, in conjunction with the DNREC Division of Watershed Stewardship, the Nanticoke Watershed Alliance, the Nanticoke River Sail & Power Squadron, the Nanticoke River Yacht Club, the Nanticoke River Arts Council and the Nanticoke River Marina.

The Reclaim Our River series "is to promote the river both as an ecological treasure that can be enjoyed in a variety of ways – out on the water or hiking on some of the trails near it – to some of the environmental concerns

and some of the things we can all do to clean up the river," said Jason Beale, with the Nature Society. "And of course we want to bring the community together."

Contact Molly Murray at 463-3334 or mmurray@delawareonline.com. Follow her on Twitter @MollyMurrayNJ.

